THE BOARD

William Barclay Allen
Chairman

Barbara J. Grutter
President & Treasurer

Carol M. Allen
Secretary

Mickey Craig
Board Member

Darryl Curtis
Board Member

Chuck Yob
Board Member

Levon Yuille
Board Member

1 November 2006

Bill Balenger
Inside Michigan Politics
2920 S. Waverly Rd.
Lansing, MI 48917

Dear Bill:

Over the past year and a half of discussions concerning affirmative action preferences, no question was asked more frequently than, "What will take place if affirmative action is removed?" Now is the time to provide the answer to that question, and Toward A Fair Michigan is confident that good answers are available. Another pregnant question, less frequently stated, from politeness doubtless, was, "Well, o.k., discussion is all very well, but what action is going to follow?"

Of course, the first act will be the act of the voters, but such questioners have in mind the challenge to all supposed leaders to assure that progressive social development does not lose out in the transaction. From that perspective, it will matter little how voters judge Proposal 2 on November 7th if Michigan leaders do not now commit to take up the serious labor of revising the terms of the social contract with regard to questions of equality and fairness. TAFM has completed Phase I of its mission, to foster open and balanced discussion, and now launches "A New Conversation on Race and Ethnicity."

For that reason, I invite you to join with the Board of Directors of TOWARD A FAIR MICHIGAN on December 8th, in a day-long workshop devoted to appraising the current status of programs of reconciliation and inclusion and to planning proactive change in Michigan. The goal for the Assembly is to create the framework for such a plan and to identify participants and sponsors.

It is not necessary for me to belabor the evident necessity for immediate and serious attention to this matter. Clearly, in the absence of determined resolve to improve the situation in Michigan (and in America), things will only become worse. You have clearly professed your commitment to equal opportunity, and I call upon you now to profess no less clearly your willingness to undertake necessary sacrifices in order to realize it.

This is a personal invitation, directed only to you. Representatives would not be welcome at this session. We can understand if either schedule conflicts or disinterest prevent your participating. We would welcome your respectfully declining the invitation if you choose not to participate, in order to facilitate our planning to receive the willing participants. Moreover, it is only fair for me to emphasize that we are asking participants to come to participate

248 E. Saginaw, #119
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

TOWARD A FAIR MICHIGAN

info@towardafairmichigan.org
www.towardafairmichigan.org

fully and without distractions, for the entire program. We shall begin promptly at 9 a.m. and close promptly at 3 p.m. We will serve lunch and provide suitable breaks. We believe, though, that it is vital that all participants show the utmost seriousness on this occasion.

We are approaching you as a civic leader, because we believe that only civic leadership can solve the problems we are dealing with. It would be a national tragedy to permit this discourse to linger on into another century unmodified. Change, however, depends upon the willingness to make sacrifices for progress. Political advocates are not capable of effecting the needed change. Civic leadership can do so.

I will provide subsequent details, but the conference will be held at the St. Francis Retreat Center Bethany House, in DeWitt, Michigan. The discussion rubrics will be:

- Approaches to municipal and agency performance within the law
- Doing good without doing race and gender
- Non-race/gender based approaches to fairness
- Developing a leadership cadre for Michigan
- Re-working the public discourse on race/ethnicity
- Active planning for a progressive future
- Accepting the responsibility for change
- The rule of law or the law of rules: what works?
- Productivity and Diversity

Thanks. I look forward to hearing from you.

Most sincerely,

William Barclay Allen
Chairman
517-749-6937

CALL

To

A LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY

A New Conversation on Race and Ethnicity
at the
St. Francis Retreat Center
Dewitt, Michigan

December 8, 2006
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

sponsored by

TOWARD A FAIR MICHIGAN, INC.

East Lansing

- DOING GOOD WITHOUT DOING RACE AND GENDER
- NON-RACE/GENDER BASED APPROACHES TO FAIRNESS
- DEVELOPING A LEADERSHIP CADRE FOR MICHIGAN
- RE-WORKING THE PUBLIC DISCOURSE ON RACE/ETHNICITY
- ACTIVE PLANNING FOR A PROGRESSIVE FUTURE
- ACCEPTING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHANGE
- RULE OF LAW OR LAW OF RULES: WHAT WORKS?

Join the Board of Directors of TOWARD A FAIR MICHIGAN in identifying where we are and deciding how to get to where we want to be. After the votes have been counted, it would be a mistake to imagine that the work has been done. TAFM's Phase II launches A New Conversation on Race and Ethnicity (ANCORE). If we commit now to making a better future, it will matter little what is the outcome of the balloting on Proposal 2, to end affirmative action programs that give preferences on the basis of race, gender, color, ethnicity, or national origin.